What is claimed is:

1. An imaging apparatus comprising:

imaging device for reading a signal captured out of an image pickup device so as to generate an image signal based on captured image;

signal processor for generating image data based on said image signal;

controller for controlling operation of at least one of said imaging device and said signal processor to set a variable frame rate of said image data to a set frame rate, and generating associated information for indicating at least said set frame rate; and

transmitter for combining said associated information with said image data to transmit the combined ones.

2. The imaging apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said controller allows for setting the variable frame rate of said image data by means of altering a frequency of reading the signal captured out of said image pickup device.

3. The imaging apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said controller allows for setting the variable frame rate of said image data by means of controlling said signal processor to perform frame-skipping.

4. The imaging apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said controller allows for setting the variable frame rate of said image data by means of altering a frequency of reading the signal captured

out of said image pickup device and controlling said signal processor to add said image data on a frame basis.

5. The imaging apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said controller allows for adding a sub-frame number to each of the frames of said set frame rate included within one frame period of reference frame rate so as to include said sub-frame number in said associated information.

6. The imaging apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said signal processor samples analog audio signal to generate audio data;

wherein said controller controls a sampling frequency of said analog audio signal in said signal processor based on said set frame rate; and

wherein said transmitter combines said associated information with said image data and said audio data to transmit the combined ones.

7. The imaging apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a signal recording apparatus, wherein said transmitter transmits a signal combining said associated information with said image data to said signal recording apparatus recording the signal thus combined on recording medium.

8. An imaging method comprising the steps of:

generating image data based on a signal read out of an image pickup device;

setting a variable frame rate of said image data to a set frame

rate;

generating associated information including frame rate information for indicating said set frame rate; and

combining said associated information with said image data to transmit the combined ones.

9. The imaging method according to Claim 8, wherein, in said step of setting, the variable frame rate of said image data is set by means of altering a frequency of reading the signal out of said image pickup device.

10. The imaging method according to Claim 8, wherein, in said step of setting, the variable frame rate of said image data is set by means of performing frame-skipping.

11. The imaging method according to Claim 8, wherein, in said step of setting, the variable frame rate of said image data is set by means of altering a frequency of reading the signal out of said image pickup device and controlling said signal processor to add said image data on a frame basis.

12. The imaging method according to Claim 8, wherein said associated information includes a sub-frame number allocated to each of the frames of said set frame rate included within one frame period of reference frame rate.

13. The imaging method according to Claim 8, further comprising

the steps of:

sampling analog audio signal to generate audio data; and

controlling a sampling frequency of said analog audio signal based on said set frame rate,

wherein, in said combining and transmitting step, said associated information is combined with said image data and said audio data to transmit the combined ones.

14. The imaging method according to Claim 8, wherein, in said combining and transmitting step, a signal combining said associated information with said image data is transmitted to signal recording apparatus recording the signal thus combined on recording medium.